

PATENT

Application No.: 10/728226
Attorney Docket No.: 98-043-C1AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

1 - 37. (CANCELLED)

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus of claim 37,~~An apparatus comprising:a processor; anda storage device that stores a program for directing the processor,the processor being operative with the program to:receive transaction data that represents a transaction,receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating inthe transaction,determine a customer rating of the customer,determine a grace period based on the customer rating,determine a time of the transaction,determine whether the time of the transaction is within the
grace period,determine a second discount based on a first discount, the
customer rating, and the time of the transaction, andapply the second discount to the transaction,

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

setting the second discount equal to the first discount if the time of the
transaction is within the grace period.

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39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus of claim 37,~~
An apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
a storage device that stores a program for directing the processor,
the processor being operative with the program to:
receive transaction data that represents a transaction,
receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating in
the transaction,
determine a customer rating of the customer,
determine a grace period based on the customer rating,
determine a time of the transaction,
determine whether the time of the transaction is within the
grace period,
determine a second discount based on a first discount, the
customer rating, and the time of the transaction, and
apply the second discount to the transaction,
wherein determining the second discount comprises:
setting the second discount less than the first discount if the time of
the transaction is not within the grace period.

40. (CANCELLED)

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Attorney Docket No.: 98-043-C141. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus of claim 28,~~An apparatus comprising:a processor; anda storage device that stores a program for directing the processor,the processor being operative with the program to:receive transaction data that represents a transaction,receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating inthe transaction,determine a customer rating of the customer,determine a time of the transaction,determine a second discount based on a first discount, thecustomer rating, and the time of the transaction, andapply the second discount to the transaction,

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

determining a discount increment based on:

the customer rating, and

the time of the transaction; anddetermining a the second discount, at a time when a the customer is present at a point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction, based on the first discount and the discount increment; andand wherein applying comprises:

applying the second discount to the transaction when the customer is present at the point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction.

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Attorney Docket No.: 98-043-C142. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus of claim 28,~~An apparatus comprising:a processor; anda storage device that stores a program for directing the processor,the processor being operative with the program to:receive transaction data that represents a transaction,receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating inthe transaction,determine a customer rating of the customer,determine a time of the transaction,determine a second discount based on a first discount, thecustomer rating, and the time of the transaction, andapply the second discount to the transaction,

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

determining a discount decrement based on:

the customer rating, and

the time of the transaction; anddetermining a the second discount, at a time when a the customer is present at a point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction, based on the first discount and the discount decrement; andand wherein applying comprises:

applying the second discount to the transaction when the customer is present at the point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction.

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43 - 44. (CANCELLED)

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The computer readable medium of claim 44,~~

A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

receive transaction data that represents a transaction;

receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating in the transaction;

determine a customer rating of the customer;

determine a grace period based on the customer rating;

determine a time of the transaction;

determine whether the time of the transaction is within the grace period;

determine a second discount based on a first discount, the customer rating, and the time of the transaction; and

apply the second discount to the transaction,

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

setting the second discount equal to the first discount if the time of the transaction is within the grace period.

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46. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The computer readable medium of claim 44,~~

A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

receive transaction data that represents a transaction;

receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating in the transaction;

determine a customer rating of the customer;

determine a grace period based on the customer rating;

determine a time of the transaction;

determine whether the time of the transaction is within the grace period;

determine a second discount based on a first discount, the customer rating, and the time of the transaction; and

apply the second discount to the transaction.

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

setting the second discount less than the first discount if the time of the transaction is not within the grace period.

47. (CANCELLED)

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48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The computer readable medium of claim 33,~~

A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

receive transaction data that represents a transaction,

receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating in the transaction,

determine a customer rating of the customer,

determine a time of the transaction,

determine a second discount based on a first discount, the customer rating, and the time of the transaction, and

apply the second discount to the transaction,

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

determining a discount increment based on:

the customer rating, and

the time of the transaction; and

determining a the second discount, at a time when ~~a~~ the customer is present at a point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction, based on the first discount and the discount increment; and

and wherein applying comprises:

applying the second discount to the transaction when the customer is present at the point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction.

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49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer readable medium of claim 33,

A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

receive transaction data that represents a transaction,

receive an identifier that identifies a customer participating in the transaction,

determine a customer rating of the customer,

determine a time of the transaction,

determine a second discount based on a first discount, the customer rating, and the time of the transaction, and

apply the second discount to the transaction,

wherein determining the second discount comprises:

determining a discount decrement based on:

the customer rating, and

the time of the transaction; and

determining a the second discount, at a time when a the customer is present at a point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction, based on the first discount and the discount decrement; and wherein applying comprises:

applying the second discount to the transaction when the customer is present at the point-of-sale terminal and participating in the transaction.